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**Subject:** EOC Spot Report - West Fertilizer Plant Explosion Update #6  
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**EOC Spot Report – Update 6  
West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**

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**US Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of 1400 EDT April 25, 2013**

**Overview:** A large explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Plant in West, TX (population 2,692) on April 17, which resulted in 14 fatalities and 263 injuries. Significant damage occurred to structures within 5 square blocks of the plant. The Texas EOC reported 142 buildings destroyed, 51 with major damage and 157 with minor damage or affected. On April 17, the Governor of Texas declared a state of emergency for McLennan County. An Emergency Declaration (FEMA-3363-EM) was approved on April 19. The Governor of Texas requested a Major Disaster Declaration on April 22, 2013. The Governor specifically requested Individual Assistance for McLennan County and Hazard Mitigation Statewide.

President Obama is attending a memorial for the citizens of West in Waco today.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** On April 24, TCEQ reported that the event transitioned from a response operation to a recovery and re-entry operation. Residents are being allowed re-entry in the least affected zone, but limited access with identification required remains in place for the intermediate zone and there is no access into the zone most affected by the blast.

Multiple agencies continue to be engaged in public safety activities at the site. The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) and the Bureau of Alcohol Firearms and Tobacco (ATF) are conducting investigations. Contractors for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the site perimeter. TCEQ representatives continue to assist ATF agents and contractors during debris assessment and excavation activities. FEMA mobilized their mobile command post to the West High School. On April 24, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) joined ATF's investigation and will assist ATF with recommendations for field operations. On April 24, ATF reported that Ammonium Nitrate, Phosphates, and Sulfates were detected from 9 soil samples that were collected at the West Fertilizer facility.

**EPA Actions:** Region 6 currently has: 2 OSCs, 2 RSC, 1 NCERT, 4 START contractors and the Mobile Command Post (MCP) on site; and 3 EPA employees in the REOC.

- EPA continues daytime air monitoring activities for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background have been detected.
- On April 24, the EPA R6, Regional Administrator and TCEQ Chairman completed a tour of the West Fertilizer property and residential area immediately west of the facility.

- EPA made recommendations for ATF to follow National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS) rules for asbestos during demolition activities.
- EPA continues to coordinate with ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.

**Media Interest:** HIGH

The HQ EOC is closely monitoring this incident and will provide more updates as necessary.